

ASPIRA, Inc. OF NEW JERSEY

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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BUILDING ON
TWO DECADES
OF SERVICE

MARGARET ROSARIO-RIVERA
CHAIRPERSON

HILDA ROSARIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CARLOS J. ALMA

DENNIS ALVARADO

GENE CALDERON

ELVIN J. CRESPO, Esq.

AGUSTIN CRUZ

MAL. SAMUEL A. DELGADO

LOUISE T. LESTER, Esq.

BETTY AYALA MCGOVERN

ELSA NUNEZ-WORMACK, Ph. D.

WALTER A. OLIVERAS, Esq.

RICHARD RAMIREZ

EVELYN SEDA LEQUERICA, M.D.

DELIA SOSA

NOEMI VELAZQUEZ

ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey
Board Meeting
May 7, 1992

Attendance

Carlos Alma
Gene Calderon
Elvin Crespo
Sam Delgado
Elsa Nunez-Wormack
Walter Oliveras
Richard Ramirez
Margaret Rosario-Rivera
Noemi Velazquez

Absent

Hector Alano
Betty Ayala-McGovern
Agustin Cruz
Yolanda Morales
Evelyn Seda Lequerica
Delia Sosa

Staff: Hilda Rosario, Executive Director
Linda M. Santiago, Development Officer

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Waiver of Notice

All Board members indicated that they were duly notified of the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

Margaret Rosario-Rivera entertained a motion to approve the minutes. Carlos Alma moved. Elvin Crespo seconded.

3. Chairperson's Report

Margaret Rosario-Rivera announced that Roberto Del Rios' son died, and that she sent condolences on behalf of the Board.

Margaret Rosario-Rivera distributed a tentative agenda for the retreat. Margaret Rosario-Rivera spoke to Dr. Janice Petrovich to see if she can open the Retreat with a discussion on ASPIRA. Dr. Janice Petrovich will be confirming the speaking engagement by May 18th.

Discussion followed to determine what Dr. Petrovich

should possibly discuss. Walter Oliveras wanted to know if it would be possible for Dr. Petrovich to discuss ASPIRA's present story instead of history. Margaret Rosario-Rivera explained that a discussion of the history of ASPIRA was necessary for the new Board members, however she will speak to Dr. Petrovich and ask her to provide current story as well.

Richard Ramirez asked whether there is a national strategic plan. Margaret Rosario-Rivera explained that the National Board is working on a plan and a draft will be reviewed at the next Executive meeting.

Margaret Rosario-Rivera asked the Board whether they can entertain two speakers the first evening of the retreat.

Elsa Nunez-Wormack suggested that a specific topic should be selected because of the limited time. After some discussion, Richard Ramirez summed up the topic as, "What is the political climate of New Jersey for Hispanics." The following individuals will be contacted to see if they can possibly become part of a panel to discuss NJ's political situation: Luis Caban, Commissioner Wilfredo Caraballo, Senator Robert Menendez. After the panel, discussion will follow during dinner.

Elsa Nunez-Wormack will contact Senator Robert Menendez.

The agenda will be finalized when the Executive Committee has their next meeting.

Margaret Rosario-Rivera asked the Board whether they felt it was a reasonable schedule. The Board agreed that it was reasonable.

Margaret Rosario-Rivera was asked whether there was a facilitator. Dr. Kristen Wenzel will be able to accomodate request but Elsa Nunez-Wormack will confirm. If she is unable to attend, there are other people available.

There will be a National Board Executive Committee meeting on May 27, 1992 to discuss the Strategic Plan as well as to discuss the legal protection of the Association of ASPIRA.

Margaret Rosario-Rivera thanked Elsa Nunez-Wormack for attending the Public Hearing on the Strategic Plan for Higher Education. Elsa Nunez-Wormack explained that she was reacting to two points. First

point was that in an effort to plan expansion you don't stop expanding opportunity. Second, keep New Jersey students in New Jersey, which is noble, but recruit students to go to college is paramount.

Margaret Rosario-Rivera distributed a summary written regarding La Sociedad de ASPIRANTES which was sent to her by the National Office. The National Office wrote a proposal which has been submitted to AT&T for funding. This is Phase II:

Margaret Rosario-Rivera needs all the Committee Chairs to submit results and accomplishments by May 31, 1992.

Angelo Gonzalez, from Coors, contacted Margaret Rosario-Rivera to ask her if ASPIRA would be willing to be recognized as one of two recipients of the monies earned at the Spanish Heritage Festival. The amount would be between \$3,000 to \$5,000. She informed Mr. Gonzalez that she will give him an answer as soon as she meets with the Board.

Margaret Rosario-Rivera made a motion to agree to receive the money. Sam Delgado moved. Walter Oliveras seconded.

Yes 9 No 0 Abstentions 1

Margaret Rosario-Rivera asked whether the Board is willing to work a booth at the festival. Noemi Velasquez explained that last year they manned a booth to ask for donations. She found it to be a waste of time. Sam Delgado offered to order Puerto Rican Christmas Cards to sell them at the booth. Both Margaret Rosario-Rivera and Noemi Velasquez volunteered to help out at the booth. Three hundred boxes will be ordered. If feasible Sam Delgado will coordinate this effort.

Margaret Rosario-Rivera explained to the Board that Dennis Alvarado had missed four Board meetings, and according to the ASPIRA Board By-Laws he is no longer on the Board. Dennis Alvarado asked Margaret Rosario-Rivera if he can be reinstated. Margaret Rosario-Rivera made a motion to reinstate Dennis Alvarado. Elsa Nunez-Wormack asked Dennis Alvarado why he was absent, what was going on in his life that would cause him to miss so many meetings. Dennis Alvarado explained that he was in school and he was occupied with some career changes. Dennis Alvarado was asked to leave the room so the Board can make their decision. After Board discussion, Dennis Alvarado was unanimously reinstated.

4. Executive Director's Report

Hilda Rosario opened her report with an announcement that the New Jersey Review Process approved the ASPIRA's School Dropout Demonstration Project. If this grant is funded, the Trenton Center will be in the same position as Camden financially.

Hilda Rosario attended a conference in Washington D.C. offered by TRIO. During that conference the Executive Directors decided to meet with Mr. Arnold Michen, Director of NCEOA. ASPIRA will benefit from becoming a member of NCEOA. They offer conferences and aid in identifying new funding sources.

Hilda Rosario spoke with Kuaku Armah, she explained to him that she was looking for office space in Trenton. He offered her some in-kind space at 20 W. State Street.

There is vacancy at the Department of Education, Executive Director of EOF for the State of New Jersey. ASPIRA should write a letter encouraging the hiring of a Hispanic.

Hilda Rosario explained that the Camden office was suffering from lack of space. This situation needs to be discussed further at the Board retreat.

Hilda Rosario visited Paterson, New Jersey with Leadership New Jersey. As a result of this trip Hilda Rosario had the opportunity to speak with the mayor of Paterson regarding the State take over of the school district.

5. ASPIRA's Self-Assessment Committee Report

Richard Ramirez presented an overview and the progress of the Self-Assessment Questionnaire. Richard Ramirez explained that basically the assessment is to understand, evaluate and improve the Agency. Many questions were asked in relation to the questionnaire, whether some results were going to be present for the Retreat and what steps were going to take place next. After much discussion it was decided that all the questionnaires needed to be created prior to distribution and that all participants should take the questionnaire at the same time. It was also determined that the time in which the questionnaire is to be distributed is of utmost importance.

6. Finance Committee's Report

Elvin Crespo presented to the Board recommendations and criteria for approving new Board members. Elvin Crespo would like to have a screening committee consisting of himself, the Chairperson and another Board member. Elsa Nunez-Wormack suggested after being on ASPIRA's Board for many years that a system needs to be created to select new Board members based on qualifications not on who you know.

After much discussion, Margaret Rosario-Rivera suggested that a questionnaire/application be created. In addition to the questionnaire, we discussed the merits of an interview process, after some discussion we did not want to create a burdensome process but one that was fair and consistent. We were in agreement that an application and supporting information would be appropriate and suitable. Elvin Crespo listed the following criteria: commitment to the Puerto Rican/Latino community, statement of interest, what do you know about ASPIRA, and area of expertise. Noemi Velazquez and Elvin Crespo are going to work on the questionnaire. There will be two phases to the process. This information will be sent to Board members in advance of the June Board Meeting.

In addition, Elvin Crespo suggested that recognition be given to the Board members for their participation on the Board.

7. Development Committee's Report

Margaret Rosario-Rivera announced that the dance will take place on Friday July 24th beginning at 8:00 p.m. and ending at 2:00 a.m. A contract will be issued to Ray Barreto for \$2,850. Flyers will be distributed by May 31, 1992 at the Hispanic Festival. The price for admission is \$50 per person for a buffet and open bar all night, \$60 at the door. On Saturday May 23rd the next Development Committee meeting will take place to plan major activities for 1993 as well as to finalize any issues related to the dance.

8. Program Committee's Report

Report tabled, Betty Ayala-McGovern was not present.

9. Old Business

None

10. New Business

Margaret Rosario-Rivera reiterated that by the end of the month (May 31, 1992), she needs the Committee Chair reports and accomplishments. The format that Margaret Rosario-Rivera recommends is that each Chair revisits and revises the three year plan.

Walter Oliveras asked when there will be another Endowment Foundation Meeting. The next Board meeting will consist of two meeting, both ASPIRA Board meeting, as well as the Endowment Board meeting.

Margaret Rosario-Rivera will discuss with Elsa Nunez-Wormack a possible transition period between herself and members of the Board who will be taking over the Capital Campaign initiatives.

Ideally Margaret Rosario-Rivera would like six (6) new Board members by the retreat or shortly thereafter.

Margaret Rosario-Rivera made a motion to close the meeting. Gene Calderon moved. Sam Delgado seconded.

The Board Meeting ended at 10:10 p.m.

The next Board Meeting will take place on June 4, 1992 at 6:00 p.m.